

MARCH 2015 MEETING RECAP

ETPA's first meeting of the year was a great event. The members that were able to attend certainly experienced a great meeting and those that could not attend the meeting missed a good one! Our speaker, William Bright, Assistant District Attorney for Knox County, spoke on "Laws Unique to Government Entities (Scams, Collusion, Protests and False Disbursements, False Claims Act). We appreciate his insights and experiences as we always have to be diligent about scams, frauds and other threats to the public procurement process. Among the other highlights of the meeting were:

- ✓ ETPA will offer the 3-day Class "Introduction to Public Procurement" in July. Watch for details!
- ✓ ETPA's scholarship information for the fall conference will soon be released.
- ✓ The newsletter committee still needs a volunteer!
- ✓ All of those who respond to the member question in the newsletter are entered for a drawing for free attendance at the next ETPA meeting.
- ✓ Pamela Cotham, Legislative Committee, discussed the status of our proposed bill that allows local entities to raise their sealed bid threshold to \$25,000 if they have centralized procurement.
- ✓ ETPA's next meeting date is May 14th and the meeting will be in southeast Tennessee. Details soon!
- ✓ ETPA's biggest fundraiser and outreach event (Business Matchmaking) is scheduled for July 16th-more details later.
- ✓ ETPA will hold a "Newcomer Roundtable" for those new members who are new to the public procurement profession. We need volunteers to moderate the roundtable. Step up now!
- ✓ ETPA members were encouraged to participate in NIGP's awards by nominating an east Tennessean. ETPA members can also participate in the Ethics and Diversity contests that NIGP sponsors. For details, go to www.nigp.org.
- ✓ ETPA members were urged to use ETPA's webpage as their primary source of public procurement information.
- ✓ Members who bring a potential member to an ETPA meeting as a guest during the year (guests must be eligible to become a member and the guest's name needs to be submitted to the Membership Committee one week prior to the meeting), will be entered in a drawing for one free attendance at an ETPA meeting.



PROUDLY ENDORSING NIGP'S PRACTICES AND PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT